

What is claimed is:

1. A method for rewarding connection time between a client and a network resource, comprising the steps of:
- receiving identification information relating to an individual using a client from the client upon the establishment of a connection between the client and the network resource;
  - correlating received identification information with stored identification information;
  - commencing an accumulation session;
  - monitoring the time of the accumulation session;
  - calculating an award of credits specific to the accumulation session where the credits are awarded, based at least in part on increasing amounts of credits based upon increasing the duration of the accumulation session.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the individual is prompted to respond in a predetermined manner during an accumulation session of the individual within a selected period of time to avoid termination of the accumulation session.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the individual is presented with a prompt during an accumulation session, first, second and third responses to said prompt being available, the first response resulting in termination of the accumulation session, and wherein, upon calculation of credits, the credits earned if the second response is received are less than the credits earned if the third response is received.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the individual is prompted to respond in a predetermined manner during the accumulation session, and the response time from the time when a prompt is made to the time when the predetermined response is received is recorded.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the recorded response time is employed in the calculation of a measure of attentiveness, said attentiveness measure being used in the calculation of the credits that are awarded.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein if the individual responds within a selected period of time, the time from the prompt to the receipt of a response is recorded.
7. The method of claim 2, wherein an icon is presented on a screen to the individual at all times, the individual being prompted by a change in appearance of the icon.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the icon is a traffic light having green, yellow

and red lights, each having an illuminated state and an off state, an illuminated green light denoting an accumulation session in progress with no requirement to respond, and an illuminated yellow light denoting an accumulation session in progress with a requirement to respond within a pre-determined period of time and an illuminated red light denoting the termination of a credit accumulation session.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein said steps of prompting, receiving responses and the recording is repeated, the recorded time being used to calculate a measure of attentiveness that is unique to the individual.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein credits are calculated based in part on content viewed by the individual during the accumulation session.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein credits are calculated based in part on the length of time taken by the individual to respond to prompts during previous credit accumulation sessions.
12. A method of providing a rewards program based upon the connection time between a client and a network resource, comprising the steps of:  
enrolling an individual in a rewards program by obtaining individual profile information and storing said information at a program administrator location;  
requiring identification of the individual once a connection to a participant resource has been established, the identification being based on said stored information;  
commencing an accumulation session following the identification of the individual;  
recording information, including at least duration of the accumulation session, at a participant's location during the accumulation session;  
forwarding said recorded information to the program administrator;  
updating the stored individual information at the program administrator location;  
calculating the total amount of credit earned as a result of the accumulation session based on the stored individual information and a formula selected by the participant; and  
permitting redemption of the earned credits for items of value.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the participant provides one or more items in redemption of the credit accumulated during connection to said participant's

resource.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the item provided in redemption is presented in the form of a certificate demonstrating credit for meeting applicable time based attendance requirements.
15. The method of claim 12, wherein a threshold value of credit is required to redeem a reward, and the program administrator notifies the individual when the threshold is achieved.
16. The method of claim 12, wherein a threshold value of credit is required to redeem an award, and the individual is notified during an accumulation session of the number of additional credits required in addition to those currently held by the individual in order to reach an applicable credit threshold.
17. The method of claim 12, wherein credit redemption is permitted at a resource maintained by the program administrator for credits earned at any participant resource.
18. The method of claim 12, wherein credit redemption is permitted at the resource of a participant including the redemption of credits earned at resources of other participants.
19. The method of claim 12, wherein redemption may be initiated by an individual employing telephone, e-mail or postal mail.
20. The method of claim 12, wherein, after a purchase process at a participant resource had been abandoned by the individual, , contact is achieved with the individual, and the individual is notified of the opportunity to obtain credit by participating in an accumulation session.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein, during said accumulation session additional opportunities to earn credits are made conditioned on completion of the purchase process.
22. A system for rewarding connection time between a client and a network resource, comprising:
  - means for receiving from a client, identification information following the establishment of a connection between the client and the network resource;
  - means for correlating received identification information with stored identification information;
  - means for commencing a credit accumulation session;

means for monitoring the time of the accumulation session;

means for calculating credits awarded specific to the accumulation session, based at least in part on increasing amounts of credits awarded based on increasing the length of time of the accumulation session.

23. In a method for rewarding attention by an individual on a client device to content at a resource, the client device and the resource being connected over a network, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a prompt that requires a response from the individual at the resource;

receiving a response from the individual;

recording the time that elapsed from the prompt to the response;

calculating the award of credits to the individual based at least in part on the recorded time that elapsed, a greater period of time elapsed resulting in a lower award of credits.

24. In a method for rewarding quality attention provided by an individual to content available

at a resource on a client device, the client device and the resource being connected over a network, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating an award based at least in part on a quality measure of individual attention, the quality measure of individual attention being unique to the individual, and being based in part on the time elapsed between one or more prompts provided to the individual while a connection is established between a client device and a resource, and a response received by the resource from the individual, a greater time elapsed resulting in a lower award.

25. A system for providing a rewards program based upon the connection time between a client and a network resource, comprising:
- means for enrolling an individual in a rewards program by obtaining individual profile information and storing said information at a program administrator location;
- means for identifying the individual upon connection to a participant resource, the identification being based on said stored information;
- means for commencing an accumulation session following identification of the individual;
- means for recording information, including at least the duration of the

accumulation session, at a participant's location where the accumulation session takes place;

means for forwarding recorded information to the program administrator;

means for updating the stored individual information at the administrator location;

means for calculating the credits earned as a result of the accumulation session based on the stored individual information and a formula selected by the participant; and

means to permit the redemption of the earned credits for items of value.

26. A storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving from a client, identification information following the establishment of a connection between the client and the network resource;

correlating received identification information with stored identification information;

commencing an accumulation session;

monitoring the length of time of the accumulation session;

calculating credits awarded specific to the accumulation session, based at least in part on awarding credits in increased amounts with increasing the length of the accumulation session.

27. A storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

enrolling an individual in a rewards program by obtaining individual profile information and storing said information;

requiring identification of the individual after establishing a connection to a participant resource, the identification being based on said stored information;

commencing an accumulation session following identification of the individual;

receiving recorded information, including at least duration of an accumulation session between an enrolled individual and a participant's resource;

updating the stored individual information based on said recorded information;

calculating credit earned by the individual as a result of the accumulation session

